

Duxbury Clipper

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Wednesday, July 2, 2003

Ring in the Fourth

By TIFFANY FRANKE

It's time to bring out the lawn chairs and fire up the grill for this year's festive Fourth of July weekend.

Ring in the Fourth this Friday at Duxbury's 111th annual parade, this year with the theme "Let Freedom Ring." In honor of those who have protected American freedoms, Duxbury's American Legion Post 223 has been chosen as this year's grand marshal.

At 2 p.m., 10 floats, 15 marching and musical bands, fire trucks, policemen, civil war and military re-enactors, stilt walkers and clowns, political representatives and antique cars will travel their annual route from the flagpole at Hall's Corner down Washington Street, to the Duxbury Middle School.

The 15 members of Duxbury's July 4th Activities Committee have been meeting weekly since February to organize three days of events.

They have worked hard to acquire ten permits (including fire, food, health, and even a port-a-potty permit) insuring event safety, raise \$15,000 in personal donations, collaborate on a parade booklet that raised \$5,000, distribute the town's allotted \$10,000, arrange all bands, marching groups and floats, and organize the bonfire. "We've called and recalled everyone to make sure everything is all set," said committee member Joan Edgar. "We can't wait to see all of our work result in something so fun."

DHS student David Hill will be leading the parade for the first time on his bagpipes. He has just returned from playing in Scotland and will be wearing his family's kilt.

Members of the Auer family of Duxbury will be the first stilt-walkers to ever join the parade. Two new clowns Dumbo and Jumbo also look forward to entertaining the crowds.

The Boston City Band will be joining Band Masters as the parade's two new marching bands playing military songs and other American favorites.

The Civil War marchers from the Massachusetts 22nd will be returning for their second year. The group, led in part by executive director of Duxbury's Rural and Historic Society, Patrick Browne, was invited to an event in Gettysburg that has since been canceled. "We're very lucky to have them again," said Edgar.

French-Canadian marching band The Stentors will be making the journey from Quebec for the fifth year.

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Ring in the Fourth

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An awards ceremony will follow at the middle school for all parade participants. Award categories include maxi and mini floats, walking and biking groups, and amateur bands with first place prizes ranging from \$25-\$500. Although not everybody wins a money prize, all participants receive a red, white and blue ribbon.

The fun continues on Saturday with a host of events taking place at the beach starting at 4 p.m. Children can get their faces painted and participate in a magic show. Put on your thinking caps and stretch your imaginations for the crazy hat contest. The winner will receive the traditional "Dave Robinson watermelon award." Volunteer at Fourth activities for over ten years. Dave Robinson earned his name as the "watermelon man" when he encouraged town groups to supply the sweet treat at the first beach party seven years ago.

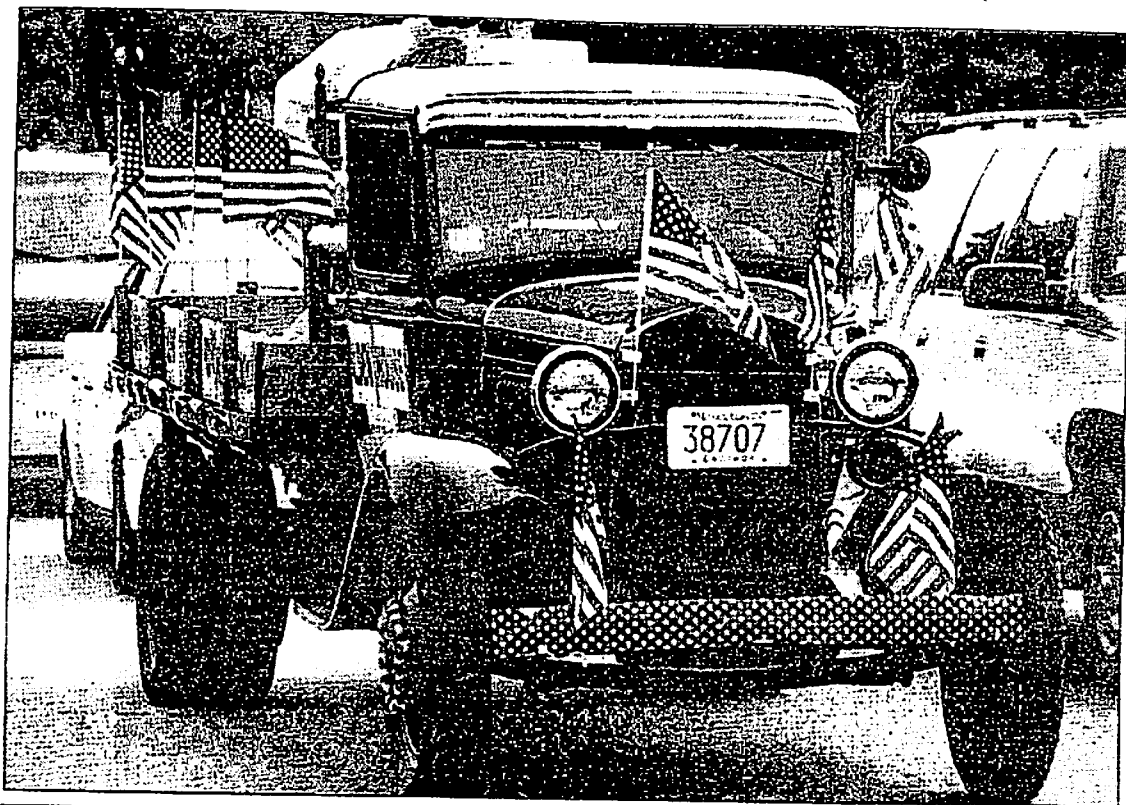
The Plankton, a new local band led by Dave Currier, will start up the music after the hat contest at around 5:30. Cheech and the Reggae Bubblers will continue with their summer sounds. The Infractions with the happening horns, led by local vocalist Brian Stratton, will play to close the party.

At 9 p.m., fire officials and beach goers will be standing by for the lighting of the bonfire. This year a raffle will determine the four lucky lighters. Anyone over the age of 12 will be able to buy an arms-length of tickets for \$5.

For those still hungry for more on Sunday, a full breakfast, including patriotic pancakes, will be served at the Corner Stone Lodge on Washington Street from 8 until noon for \$5 per adult.

At 6 p.m., Battelle will be hosting the Concert on the Bay where the South Shore Bay Band plays annually by the water. For their seventh year, the 40 members of the band led by director and musical advisor, Charles Cassara, will play everything from popular pieces by John Williams, to jazz pieces and military marches. A non-profit Duxbury based organization, the South Shore Bay Band has raised \$30,000 in the past 11 years for college scholarships.

Also playing in the parade,



the band is a prominent member of the weekend's activities. President, Jon Olson, encourages families to bring picnics, lawn chairs, and blan-

kets to the concert. "It's a family event," he said. "Kids love it and there's music for everybody."

No matter what your plans

may be to celebrate the nation's 227th birthday, the 4th July Activities Committee encourages all to "have fun, be safe, and show your colors!"



FRIDAY, JULY 4TH - 111TH ANNUAL PARADE

Washington Street, 2 p.m. start

SATURDAY, JULY 5TH - BEACH PARTY AND BONFIRE

Duxbury Beach, 4 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Bonfire lighting, approximately 9 p.m.

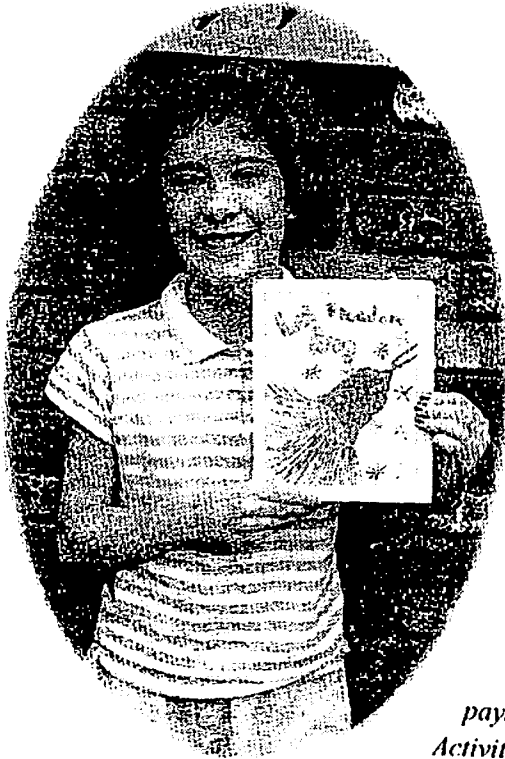
SUNDAY, JULY 6TH - HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

AT CORNER STONE LODGE

8 a.m. — noon

**SUNDAY, CONCERT ON THE BAY - FEATURING THE
SOUTH SHORE BAY BAND**

Battle Waterfront, 6 p.m.



"Let Freedom Ring"

This year's winner of the July 4th booklet cover competition was 11-year-old Lauren Mechak. Nearly 150 students from kindergarten through 11th grade joined in the challenge to draw a picture representing the theme "Let Freedom Ring" using only red, white, and blue. Mechak's picture earned her a \$100 prize and the honor of having her artwork seen by thousands of residents. On the Fourth, she looks forward to "celebrating with family and friends" at the parade and a family cookout.

The booklet is put together every year as a keepsake of the parade. It salutes the grand marshal, includes essays about the holiday, and gives thanks to all generous donors to the parade. This year's back cover makes a special dedication to the "service and dedication" of the armed and support services who have "made many sacrifices in the past year."

The booklet has earned so much support from ad entries that it now more than pays for itself. This year it generated an extra \$5,000 for the funds of the Fourth Activities Committee.

Question of the Week

What does Independence Day mean to you?

By TRISH VAN ALSTYNE



Taking the time to think about all who have given their time and lives apart from their families

Cheryl Lyer
Bay Road



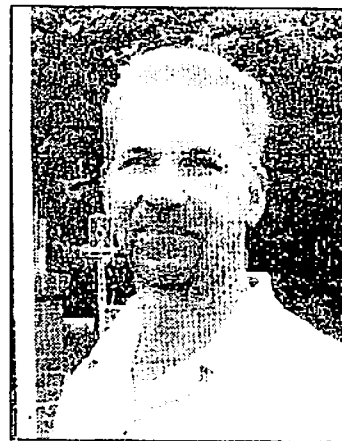
Family and traditional celebrations. It's great to be an American.

Jack Cronin
Salt Meadow Lane



The beginning of summer and birth of our country.

Jim Merlin
Marshall Street



Parades, cookouts, family, a day off, and the independence of our country.

John Walters
Washington Street



Freedom to live life as you choose.

Earl Campbell
Autumn Avenue